

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
Medical Officer of Health
OF THE
ST. ALBANS
Rural District Council

FOR THE YEAR 1920,

BY

HENRY E. MAY,

M.A., M.B., B.C., CANTAB.,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH, Etc., Etc.,

ALSO

Report of the Inspector of Nuisances.

ST. ALBANS:

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INDEX.

ADOPTIVE ACTS AND URBAN POWERS	28
AREA AND POPULATION...	3
BYELAWS AND REGULATIONS	28
COWSHEDS	...	...	28
DETAILED STATEMENT OF EACH LOCALITY, INCLUDING SEWAGE AND WATER SUPPLY:—			
Harpenden Rural	...	...	16
Redbourn	...	...	17
St. Michael's Rural	...	...	19
St. Peter's Rural	...	...	20
St. Stephen's Rural	...	...	22
Sandridge	...	...	23
Wheathampstead	...	...	24
FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS	...	...	29
HOUSING	...	...	25
HOUSING AND TOWN PLANNING ACTS	...	..	27
INFECTIOUS DISEASES :—			
Diphtheria	...	...	9
Scarlet Fever	...	...	10
Tuberculosis	...	...	10
PREVENTIVE MEASURES	...	...	11
PUBLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS	...	...	14
SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT	...	...	31
VACCINATION	...	...	12
VITAL STATISTICS	...	...	4

***To the Chairman and Members of the St.
Albans Rural District Council.***

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you my Report for the year 1920, as Medical Officer of Health for the District over which you preside.

The District comprises 7 Parishes, consisting of villages and scattered cottages. The chief occupation is agriculture, but there are several small factories, and some of the inhabitants work in the neighbouring towns.

Area and Population.

According to the Census of 1911, the population of the District was 19,469 persons, and at that time the area of the District was 38,772 acres.

Area.—On November 9th, 1913, the boundaries of the City of St. Alban were extended and took in 1698 acres from this District. The area of this District now comprises 37,074 acres.

Population as given by the Registrar General : 11,053.

This figure does not include the population of the Hertfordshire and Middlesex County Mental Hospitals.

The number of inhabited houses in the District is 2,763.

Forty new houses were erected during the year.

The natural increase during the year has been 185 births over deaths, as shewn in the following table :—

Excess of Births over Deaths in 1920.

District.	Births.	Deaths.	Excess of Births
Harpenden Rural ...	13	2	11
Redbourn	55	23	32
St. Michael's Rural	14	9	5
St. Peter's Rural ...	71	26	45
St. Stephen's Rural	53	24	29
Sandridge	18	4	14
Wheathampstead ...	72	23	49
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	296	111	185

Vital Statistics.

Births.—The total number of Births registered during the year was 278, composed of 162 males and 116 females. To this must be added 14 males and 4 females who though belonging to the District were born outside the District, making the total number of births belonging to the District 296 (176 males and 120 females). 12 of these (9 males and 3 females) were illegitimate. This, with a population of 11,053, gives a Birth rate for the year of **26·78** per 1,000 population.

The Birth rate for the year 1919 was 17·61.

Deaths.—The total number of Deaths registered in the District was 196.

48 of these Deaths took place in the Hertfordshire County Mental Hospital, 46 of which did not belong to the District; 65 took place in Napsbury Mental Hospital, 63 of which did not belong to the District, and 2 took place in the National Children's Home and Orphanage Sanatorium, neither of which belonged to the District.

There was also 1 other Death which did not belong to the District.

There were 27 Deaths of residents which took place in other Districts.

Deducting therefore 46 Deaths from Herts County Mental Hospital, 63 from Napsbury Mental Hospital, 2 from the National Children's Home and Orphanage Sanatorium, and 1 other, and adding the 27, we get the total number of Deaths belonging to the District as 111 (57 males and 54 females), which, with a population of 11,053, gives a true Death rate for the year of **10·04** per 1,000 population.

The Death rate for the year 1919 was 13·26.

Infant Deaths.—There were 10 Deaths belonging to the District of Infants under one year of age, of which 7 were males and 3 were females. This gives an Infant Death rate for the year of **33** per 1,000 nett Births.

The Infant Death rate for the year 1919 was 66 per 1,000 nett Births.

**Table of Vital Statistics for whole District,
shewing each Parish separately.**

Parishes.	Births.			Deaths.	Infant Deaths.
	M.	F.	Total.		
Harpenden Rural ...	11	2	13	2	0
Redbourn ...	33	22	55	23	5
St. Michael's Rural...	9	5	14	9	0
St. Peter's Rural ...	50	21	71	26	2
St. Stephen's Rural...	24	29	53	24	1
Sandridge ...	10	8	18	4	1
Wheathampstead ...	39	33	72	23	1
Totals ...	176	120	296	111	10

The following table gives the provisional Vital Statistics for England and Wales for the year 1920 :—

	Birth Rate per 1000 Popula- tion.	Death Rate per 1000 Popula- tion.	Deaths under One Year per 1000 Births.
England and Wales ...	25·4	12·4	80
96 Great Towns, including London ... Populations exceeding 50,000 at Census of 1911.	26·2	12·5	85
148 Smaller Towns ... Populations from 20,000 to 50,000 at Census of 1911.	24·9	11·3	80
London ...	26·5	12·4	75
St. Albans Rural...	26·78	10·04	33

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Enteric Fever ... ..	...	...	...
Small Pox ... ..	...	...	...
Measles ... ..	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever ... ..	...	...	...
Whooping Cough ... ..	...	...	...
Diphtheria and Croup ... ..	...	2	2
Influenza ... ..	...	4	4
Erysipelas ... ..	...	...	...
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	8	2	10
Tuberculous Meningitis ... ..	...	1	1
Other Tuberculous Diseases... ..	3	...	3
Cancer, Malignant Disease	2	4	6
Rheumatic Fever ... ..	...	...	...
Meningitis	1	1	2
Organic Heart Disease	9	11	20
Bronchitis	3	2	5
Pneumonia (all forms)	6	3	9
Other Respiratory Diseases ... ..	...	1	1
Diarrhoea, &c. (under 2 years) ... ..	...	...	...
Appendicitis and Typhlitis ... ..	...	...	...
Cirrhosis of Liver ... ..	...	1	1
Alcoholism ... ..	...	...	...
Nephritis and Bright's Disease	2	1	3
Puerperal Fever ... ..	...	...	...
Parturition, apart from Puerperal Fever ... ..	...	...	...
Congenital Debility, &c.	4	2	6
Violence, apart from Suicide	4	1	5
Suicide ... ..	...	...	...
Other Defined Diseases	15	18	33
Causes ill-defined or unknown ... ..	...	...	...
All Causes	57	54	111

Infant Mortality during the Year 1920.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Under 1 week.	1-2 weeks.	2-3 weeks.	3-4 weeks.	Total under 4 weeks.	4 weeks & under 3 months.	3 months & under 6 months.	6 months & under 9 months.	9 months & under 12 months.	Total Deaths under 1 year.
Small Pox
Chicken Pox
Measles
Scarlet Fever
Whooping Cough
Diphtheria and Croup
Erysipelas
Tuberculous Meningitis
Abdominal Tuberculosis
Other Tuberculous Diseases
Meningitis (<i>not Tuberculous</i>)
Convulsions
Laryngitis
Bronchitis
Pneumonia (all forms)	1	1
Diarrhœa
Enteritis
Gastritis
Syphilis
Rickets
Suffocation, overlying
Injury at Birth
Atelectasis	2	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	2
Congenital Malformations	1	..	..	..	1
Premature Birth	2	..	2	1	5	..	..	..	..	5
Atrophy, Debility and Marasmus
Other Causes	1	..	1
Total	4	..	2	1	7	1	..	1	1	10

Infectious Diseases.

71 cases of Infectious Diseases were notified to me during the year, particulars of which are given in the following table:—

Disease.	Totals.	Har- penden Rural.	Redbourn	St. Michael's Rural.	St.Peter's Rural.	St. Stephen's Rural.	Sand- ridge.	Wheat- hamp stead.
Diphtheria ...	12	1	2	0	5	0	0	4
Scarlet Fever ...	12	1	0	0	7	0	0	4
Erysipelas ...	4	0	1	0	2	1	0	0
Pneumonia ...	6	0	3	0	3	0	0	0
Malaria ...	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Dysentery ...	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	28	2	12	2	2	7	1	2
Other forms of Tuber- culosis ...	5	1	0	2	1	0	0	1
Totals ...	71	5	19	4	22	8	1	12

There were no cases of Small-pox, Enteric Fever, Cerebro-Spinal Fever or Poliomyelitis.

Nine of the Scarlet Fever cases, and 9 of the Diphtheria cases were removed to the Sisters' Hospital.

Infectious Diseases during 1920, showing Disease, also place and month of incidence.

DIPHTHERIA.

Parishes.	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June	July.	August.	September	October.	November.	December.	Totals.
Harpenden Rural	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1
Redbourn ..	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
St.MichaelsRural	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0
St. Peters Rural.	1	..	..	..	..	..	2	2	..	..	..	..	5
St.StephensRural	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0
Sandridge ...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0
Wheathampstead	..	..	..	1	..	1	1	1	..	..	..	..	4
Totals ...	2	..	..	2	..	1	4	3	..	..	..	..	12

SCARLET FEVER.

Parishes.	January.	February.	March..	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September	October.	November.	December.	Totals.
Harpenden Rural	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Redbourn ...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0
St. Michaels Rural	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0
St. Peters Rural.	..	1	..	3	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	1	7
St. Stephens Rural	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0
Sandridge ...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0
Wheathampstead	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	1	..	4
Totals ...	1	1		4	..	..	1	3	..	..	1	1	12

Diphtheria.

12 cases were notified to me during the year. With one exception when there were 2 cases in one house, all the cases were isolated ones and had no connection one with the other, and in several cases the disease was undoubtedly contracted outside the Distrct.

Scarlet Fever.

12 cases were notified to me during the year. In April 2 cases occurred in houses side by side, and in August 2 cases occurred in the same house. With these exceptions all the cases were isolated ones having no connection with each other.

In 5 of the cases the infection was undoubtedly contracted outside the District.

Tuberculosis.

33 new cases were notified during the year (28 of which were pulmonary and 5 non-pulmonary).

Preventive Measures.

The Sisters' Hospital for Infectious Diseases comprises the following :—

The Scarlet Fever block with an accommodation of 30 beds which has provided sufficient accommodation for all the Scarlet Fever cases. This block also contains 2 wards of 3 beds each, set apart for Cerebro-Spinal Fever cases.

The Diphtheria block, with an accommodation of 12 beds, has provided sufficient accommodation for all the Diphtheria cases.

The Small-pox Hospital at Cherry Tree Farm, with an accommodation of 12 beds, which is in charge of a caretaker and his wife, who keep it in such a state as to be ready for a patient at the shortest notice, has not been required during the year.

These 2 Hospitals we share with the authorities of St. Albans Urban District and Harpenden Urban District.

The Hospital Committee have, at the request of the Hatfield Rural District Council, given me authority to admit cases of Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria from the Hatfield District whenever there is ample accommodation.

During the year 68 cases of Scarlet Fever were admitted to the Sisters' Hospital, 44 of which belonged to the City, 9 to the Rural District, 9 to Harpenden, and 6 to Hatfield. Forty-three cases of Diphtheria were removed to the Hospital, 25 of which belonged to the City, 9 to the Rural District, 8 to Harpenden, and 1 to Hatfield.

One case of Cerebro-Spinal Fever was removed to the Hospital which belonged to Harpenden.

At the Sisters' Hospital there is a Thresh's Steam Disinfector where bedding and clothes may be disinfected. This is practically always done in cases of Scarlet Fever, Small-pox, etc., and frequently done after such illnesses as Consumption and Cancer. This work is done by the porter at the Hospital.

Formaldehyde is the disinfectant almost universally used in this District, but, in addition, every room is thoroughly cleansed with soap, water and fresh air, and, where necessary, white-washed and papered. This work is done under the supervision of the Inspector of Nuisances.

Arrangements are made by this Council with the Clinical Research Association and the Counties Public Health Laboratories for examination to be made at the expense of this Council.

I have received during the year 19 reports from them, as follows :—

Sixteen on Swabs examined for Klebs Loeffler Bacilli for Diphtheria, 2 of which were positive and 14 negative.

Three on Sputum examined for Tubercle Bacilli, 2 of which were positive and 1 negative.

Diphtheria anti-toxin is in all suitable cases supplied at the expense of this Council.

Vaccination.

It is for obvious reasons impossible at this date to give any accurate Vaccination returns for the year ending December, 1920.

The following figures therefore are given for the 12 months ending June 30th, 1920, and have been supplied to me by Mr. Rogers, the Vaccination Officer :—

During this period there were 255 children born in this District, distributed among the Parishes as shown in the following table :—

10 of these died in infancy without being vaccinated.

8 have gone away from the District before being vaccinated.

11, though having no Exemption Certificate, are reported as unvaccinated, and

141 Conscientious Objection Certificates were granted.

85 were vaccinated.

Parishes.		Births	Deaths	Gone	Unvaccinated (without Exemption Certificate).	Vaccinated.	Conscientious Objection Certificates.
Harpenden Rural	...	23	...	...	...	5	18
Redbourn	...	50	2	1	...	10	37
St. Michaels Rural	...	13	...	...	...	7	6
St. Peters Rural	...	64	6	6	7	21	24
St. Stephens Rural	...	33	...	...	...	15	18
Sandridge	...	16	2	...	1	4	9
Wheathampstead...	...	56	...	1	3	23	29
Totals	...	255	10	8	11	85	141

As Assistant School Medical Officer I find that 50 per cent. of the children inspected during 1920 were vaccinated, and that of the children under 6 years of age 45 per cent. were vaccinated.

No primary vaccinations or re-vaccinations have been performed by me under the (Small Pox Prevention) Regulations, 1917.

Public Elementary Schools.

There are 11 Public Elementary Schools in the District, 9 of which are Church of England Schools, and 2 of which are County Council Schools.

The Schools obtain their Water Supply as follows :—

Colney Street from St. Albans Water Company's Mains.

London Colney " " "

Colney Heath from Barnet Water Company's Mains.

Childwickbury from Childwick Private Water Supply.

Bricket Wood from Wells.

Gustard Wood ,, (no drinking water available).

Wheathampstead ,,

Redbourn ,,

Kinsbourne Green ,,

Park Street ,,

Sandridge from Tube Well.

The following are extracts from my Annual Report to the School Medical Officer :—

Heating.—Central heating is the only really satisfactory method of uniformly heating the large schoolrooms. Open grates as at present existing in the majority of Schools are insufficient.

Lighting.—In most of the Schools the lighting is satisfactory, but in one or two there is room for improvement.

At Wheathampstead a new dormer window has much improved the Infants' main room, but in the other rooms in this School the lighting is still inadequate.

Ventilation.—With a few exceptions, all the Schools are capable of adequate ventilation.

Sanitary Arrangements.—The Sanitary arrangements in most of the Schools may be considered satisfactory, with the following exceptions :—

Redbourn, where in all departments, as I reported last year, the offices are very inadequate, and do not appear to be emptied sufficiently often.

At Bricket Wood the urinal is still unpaved, and in wet weather is very unsatisfactory.

At Gustard Wood the Sanitary arrangements are being added to, a new urinal being erected for boys. The pathway to the existing conveniences is very unsatisfactory, as in wet weather there is a large puddle outside the School doorway.

School Closure.—The following Schools were closed during the year :—

Park Street for Measles from 3rd May, for one week.

„ „ „ 20th to 24th September.

Redbourn Boys „ „ 26th April to 1st June.

„ Girls for Influenzal Colds, from 11th to 22nd March.

„ „ for Measles and General Illness, from 23rd April to 1st June.

„ Infants for Influenzal Colds, from 12th to 22nd March.

„ „ for Measles, from 15th April to 1st June.

Spread of Infection.—I should like to repeat the warning which I gave in my report last year against the habit which

prevails in a large number of schools of collecting in a common box all the articles used by the children such as pens, pencils, paint brushes, chalks and plasticine, instead of allowing each child to have a separate box of its own to keep these articles in.

In all cases it is important, but especially so in the case of an infants' class, that these articles should be kept separate for each child, as it is impossible to prevent the children from putting their pencils, etc., in their mouths, and this is not uncommonly the cause of the spread of infection.

Passing on to a detailed statement as to each locality, I have to report as follows:—

HARPENDEN RURAL.

Area in acres, 3,479. Births: male 11, female 2; total 13. Deaths 2. Deaths under one year of age, 0.

Two cases of Infectious Diseases were notified to me during the year: 1 of Diphtheria and 1 of Scarlet Fever.

Two cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis and 1 case of Non-pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified to me during the year.

No new houses were erected during the year, but the 10 new Council Cottages are nearly completed.

The number of dairies and cowsheds registered is 1.

The Sewerage System in this District consists almost entirely of dumb-wells, which are emptied as necessity arises by the occupiers of the houses to which they belong.

A few isolated cottages throw their slop-water on to the ground. There is no scheme for collection of house refuse or closets in this District.

The Sanitary Inspector reports to me that considerable nuisance arises from the depositing of tins and refuse in the ditches on Kinsbourne Green Common.

The tenants of the Kinsbourne Green cottages have no convenience for the disposal of their refuse, and the same difficulty will arise with regard to the 10 new Council cottages.

I suggest that this Council approach the Harpenden Urban Council to see if it is possible for them to extend their scavenging area to include Kinsbourne Green.

Part of the District obtains its water from wells, the remainder receives its supply from the Harpenden Waterworks Company. The District is very scattered, and this system is quite satisfactory.

REDBOURN.

Area in acres, 4,563. Births: male 33, female 22; total 55. Deaths 23. Deaths under one year 5.

Seven cases of Infectious Diseases were notified to me during the year: 2 of Diphtheria, 1 of Erysipelas, 1 of Ophthalmia Neonatorum, and 3 of Pneumonia.

Twelve cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified to me during the year.

Three new houses were erected during the year.

The number of dairies and cowsheds registered is 5.

The Sewerage System in this District consists of dumb-wells, which are regularly cleaned out by men employed for the purpose.

Complaints have been received from time to time of the overflowing of the dumb-wells on the Common. This is largely due to the surface water getting into the drains and dumb-wells, and so making it practically impossible for the contractor to deal with it.

The new sewer on the East Common has now been laid and and statutory notices have been served on the owners to connect their cottage drains to the new sewer.

One dumb-well on the outskirts of Redbourn has been giving considerable trouble. This dumb-well which was originally sunk for five or six newly erected cottages and a house built on the adjoining land is quite insufficient. The matter was referred to me and the Surveyor to interview the owners. The owners are agreeable to sink new dumb-wells.

Most of the houses have ash-bins and refuse pails, which are collected each week.

This Council have purchased and distributed at wholesale prices 60 new ash-bins.

Each house or cottage has an earth closet.

The water supply is obtained from private wells and by 8 pumps sunk by this Council.

Farms and cottages on the Gorhambury Estate are supplied by a private water scheme, water being obtained by pumping from a well adjoining the Redbourn and St. Albans Road.

ST. MICHAEL'S RURAL.

Area in acres 6,121. Births: male 9, female 5; total, 14 Deaths 9. Deaths under one year 0.

No cases of Infectious Diseases were notified to me during the year.

Two cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis and 2 cases of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified during the year.

No new houses were erected during the year.

The number of dairies and cowsheds registered is 3.

The Sewerage System in this District consists of dumb-wells, which are emptied as necessity arises, by the occupiers of the houses to which they belong.

There are a few isolated cottages, the occupiers of which throw their slop-water on the ground.

38 houses situated on one side of the Common at Leverstock Green drain all their slop-water into an open ditch bordering the allotments.

A drainage scheme is required for this village, which is situated in 3 districts, viz.: St. Albans Rural, Watford Rural and Hemel Hempstead.

In 1914 these three Authorities had practically arrived at an agreement as to a joint drainage scheme for this village, but owing to the very largely increased cost of carrying out this work for so few cottages the scheme has been abandoned.

Last year I reported that a system of collection of house refuse would be required for Leverstock Green.

Complaints have again been numerous and this Council has instructed their Surveyor and Inspector to report upon a cess-pool system of drainage and a conversion of the pail-closets into water-closets.

Water Supply—Gorhambury Estate, including the following farms and cottages, are supplied from a reservoir on the Gorhambury Estate :—

Westwick Hall Farm and 2 cottages.

Corner Farm.

3 cottages in Hemel Hempstead Road.

Beech-tree cottages.

Hill End Farm and 2 cottages

Farmhouse and cottages at Maidens Crouch and Apps
Pond and Potters Crouch.

Holly Bush Farm.

Pré Wood Farm and cottages

Pré Wood House.

Houses adjoining the City of St. Albans are supplied by the St. Albans Water Works Company.

The village of Leverstock Green is supplied by the Hemel Hempstead Water Works Company.

A few outlying cottages are supplied from their own wells.

The system works satisfactorily.

ST. PETER'S RURAL.

Area in acres, 5,256. Births: male 50, female 21; total 71. Deaths 26. Deaths under one year 2.

19 cases of Infectious Diseases were notified to me during the year: 5 of Diphtheria, 7 of Scarlet Fever, 1 of Malaria, 2 of Erysipelas, 3 of Pneumonia and 1 of Dysentery.

Two cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis and 1 case of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified during the year.

Eleven new houses were erected during the year.

The number of dairies and cowsheds registered is 5.

I.—*Colney Heath.*

The Sewerage System here consists of dumb-wells, which are emptied by the occupiers when required; there are a few cottages, however, the occupiers of which throw their slops on to the ground. There are both privies and earth closets.

A weekly collection of house refuse in the village of Colney Heath is carried on by contract with this Council, and the system is working satisfactorily.

The Water Supply is principally obtained from shallow wells, but about 50 houses in the Roe Green district are supplied by agreement from the Marquis of Salisbury's Water-works at Hatfield.

II.—*London Colney.*

The Sewerage System here consists of a main sewer which takes surface-water and the slop water from most of the houses, but to which is connected the soil pipes of not more than three houses. This sewer empties itself into a brick and cement tank in a field. The tank is emptied by a windmill pump, and as occasion arises by manual labour.

The Village of London Colney is situated partly in this District and partly in Barnet Rural District.

The question of a joint Sewerage Scheme, which has been delayed owing to the war, is still receiving the attention of these two Councils.

There are chiefly earth closets, but a few privies remain.

There is a weekly house to house collection of refuse in this District, which is working satisfactorily.

The Water Supply is almost entirely from the St. Albans Waterworks mains.

III.—*Hill End Asylum.*

This Institution has its own septic tank, which works most satisfactorily.

The Asylum has its own Water Supply, which is also laid on to the cottages on the Estate.

IV.—*Napsbury Asylum.*

This Institution has its own septic tank, the effluent from which is treated by irrigation, and is in every way satisfactory. There is a side effluent, which contains chemicals, from an engine house, which is under observation.

This Asylum has also its own Water Supply, including the outlying cottages belonging to the Asylum.

ST. STEPHEN'S RURAL.

Area in acres, 6,991. Births: male 24, female 29; total 53. Deaths 24. Deaths under one year 1.

One case of Erysipelas was notified to me during the year.

Seven cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified to me during the year.

Eighteen new houses were erected during the year.

The number of dairies and cowsheds registered is 7.

The Sewerage System consists of dumbwells, which are emptied by their owners.

There are both privies and earth closets. The number of the former, however, is now very small, and chiefly in the out-lying Districts.

There is a weekly house to house collection of refuse in Park Street, Frogmore and Colney Street, extending to Bridgefoot Cottages, which continues to work satisfactorily.

The Water Supply is obtained from wells and from the St. Albans Water Works Company.

Seven houses are supplied by the Colne Valley Water Company by agreement.

SANDRIDGE.

Area in acres, 5,466. Births: male 10, female 8; total 18. Deaths 4. Deaths under one year 1.

No cases of Infectious Diseases were notified to me during the year.

One case of Pulmonary Tuberculosis was notified to me during the year.

Four new houses were erected during the year.

The number of dairies and cowsheds registered is 5.

The Sewerage System here consists of dumb-wells, which are emptied by the owners, and a sewer which runs through the village and empties itself into a ditch which extends some half-a-mile down Hatfield Road, Sandridge.

The scheme for draining the village which has been prepared by the Surveyor and Consulting Engineer is postponed.

There is no scheme for the removal of house refuse in this District. Many of the gardens and yard spaces are small, and unless the tenant is an allotment holder, the facilities for the disposal of refuse are small. This matter should receive the attention of this Council.

The Water Supply is obtained from wells.

WHEATHAMPSTEAD.

Area in acres, 5,187. Births : male 39, female, 33 ; total 72. Deaths 23. Deaths under one year 1.

Nine cases of Infectious Diseases were notified to me during the year : 4 of Diphtheria, 4 of Scarlet Fever, and 1 of Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

Two cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis and one case of non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified to me during the year.

Four new houses were erected during the year.

The number of dairies and cowsheds registered is 10.

There is no scheme for scavenging in any part of the District. This matter should receive the attention of this Council.

The Water Supply is chiefly from wells, but 11 houses are supplied from the Childwickbury private Water Works.

I.—*Wheathampstead Village* has a main sewer which takes the surface water, slops, and soil from most of the houses, which is eventually treated by irrigation.

II.—*New Marford*. The sewerage system is by dumb-wells, but owing to the close proximity of the cottages to one another and to the low-lying position in which this district is situated, the ground is becoming saturated with sewage, and the condition is far from satisfactory.

An extensive drainage scheme by Mr. Howard Humphreys, Consulting Engineer, was printed in detail in my last year's report, but owing to the excessive cost, the Council have postponed the execution of the work.

The insanitary condition of New Marford was, in the first instance, the cause of the scheme being brought forward, and this has not improved.

The Sanitary Inspector suggests that as a temporary measure, the sewers might be laid in New Marford and connected up with the existing reception tanks at the sewage works.

I commend this scheme to your consideration.

III.—The sewerage in *Gustard Wood* and other parts of the district is by means of dumb-wells, and works quite satisfactorily.

Housing.

The number of houses in the District is 2,763, 40 of which have been quite recently erected. It is estimated that three-fifths of this number, namely 1650 houses, come within the scope of Section 14 of the Housing and Town Planning Act, 1909.

I reported last year that to meet the requirements of the District during the next three years 152 houses will be required and that the Council had acquired land for this purpose.

The first part of the scheme, namely 72 houses are in course of erection. Their situation, etc., is indicated in the following table:—

Parish.		Situation of Site.	No. of Cottages.	Method of Sewage Disposal.	Water Supply.
Harpenden Rural	...	Kinsbourne Green	... 10	...Cesspools...	Main Supply
Redbourn	...	Common, Nr. Boys School	... 4	...Cesspools...	Wells
St. Peter's Rural	...	Nr. Smallford Station	8	...Cesspools...	Wells
St. Stephen's Rural	...	Nr. Park Street Station	12	...Cesspools...	Main Supply
Sandridge	...	Nr. Church	... 18	...Cesspools...	Wells
Wheathampstead	...	Brewhouse Hill	... 8	...Drains to Sewer...	Wells
Wheathampstead	...	The Folly	... 12	...Cesspools...	Wells

No Council houses were ready for occupation during the year, but it is expected that the 10 at Kinsbourne Green will be occupied by the end of March.

There is no doubt considerable overcrowding in the District due entirely to house shortage, and this will be dealt with as soon as opportunity arises. I wish that the Public Health Acts were extended in order to give power to deal with the proper separation of the sexes.

Generally speaking, the standard of housing in the District is satisfactory. The standard aimed at comprises the following:—

1. Every house to be in a state of good repair, free from damp and to have a through draught.
2. Every house to have an adequate water supply, sufficient lighting and ventilation, and a good food store.
3. Separate closet accommodation to each house.
4. A portion of the space around each house to be paved and a sanitary ash-bin provided.

Owing to labour difficulties action is still difficult under the Public Health Act or the Housing Acts with regard to unfit houses, but 72 cottages have been inspected, all of which required more or less repair and in every case the more important repairs have been carried out.

Eight houses were found to be unfit, one of these being regarded as dangerous.

Seven have been rendered fit.

The Council hesitate to issue a closing order in the eighth case if the owner can possibly be induced to carry out the more urgent repairs, as this cottage (really three turned into one) is occupied by a tenant with a very large family.

There are no unhealthy areas in the District.

There are no houses let as lodgings in the District.

We have bye-laws relating to tents, vans and sheds, and though it may take some considerable time to move on undesirables, the Inspector of Nuisances is able to deal with any nuisance arising promptly and satisfactorily.

Housing and Town Planning Acts.

Under the Housing and Town Planning Act 1909, 72 inspections have been made during the year.

Seven houses which were found to have defects have been made habitable.

There are 8 houses which are unfit for human habitation and cannot be made so. These will be dealt with as soon as conditions allow.

In addition there are about 30 houses which have defects which, when remedied, will make the houses habitable. These are receiving attention.

No action has been taken under Section 28 of the 1919 Act.

No closing orders or demolition orders have been issued during the year.

There are no obstructive buildings in the District.

Cowsheds.

The number of cowsheds on register in the year 1920 is 36, distributed as follows:—

Harpenden Rural	...	...	...	1
Redbourn ..	...	...	...	5
St. Michael's Rural	...	...	...	3
St. Peter's Rural	...	...	...	5
St. Stephen's ...	...	...	...	7
Sandridge ...	...	...	...	5
Wheathampstead	...	...	...	10
				<hr/>
				36

These are all regularly inspected both by the Veterinary Inspector and Sanitary Inspector.

Appended is the report of the Inspector of Nuisances.

Byelaws and Regulations.

The following Byelaws and Regulations are in force in the District:—

New Streets and Buildings.
 Offensive Trades.
 Nuisances.
 Slaughter Houses.
 Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops.
 Van-dwellers.

For a list of the Adoptive Acts and Urban Powers in force in this District see last year's Report.

Factories and Workshops.

There are 71 Factories and Workshops registered in the District. Of these, 15 are Factories and 56 are Workshops, distributed in the different parishes as follows:—

		Factories.	Workshops.	Totals.
Harpenden Rural ...	...	0	0	0
Redbourn ...	...	6	16	22
St. Michael's Rural	...	0	1	1
St. Peter's Rural ...	...	2	4	6
St. Stephen's Rural	...	2	12	14
Sandridge ...	...	1	2	3
Wheathampstead ...	...	4	21	25
		15	56	71

Table showing number and nature of employment of Factories and Workshops in each locality:—

TRADE.	Harpenden Rural	Redbourn	St. Michaels	St. Peters	St. Stephens	Sandridge	Wheat-hampstead	Totals.	Factories	Workshop.
Bakers	3	...	1	4	...	6	14	0	14
Brush Makers	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	0
Silk Works	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	0
Fellmongers	1	...	...	1	...	...	1	0	1
Tallow Melters	1	1	0
Jam Works	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	0
Saddlers	2	...	...	...	...	1	3	0	3
Tailors	1	...	2	3	0	3
Straw Goods...	1	1	1	0
Laundries	1	...	1	1	...	1	4	0	4
Dressmakers	3	...	...	...	...	...	3	0	3
Builders	1	...	...	...	...	2	3	0	3
Flour Mills	2	...	...	...	...	2	4	4	0
Plumbers, etc.	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	2	0	2
Rubber Works	1	1	1	0
Cycle Works...	...	1	...	...	...	...	2	3	0	3
Brick Kilns	2	...	...	...	2	2	0
Farriers	1	...	...	2	1	2	6	0	6
Gas Works	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	0
Boot Makers...	1	1	...	1	3	0	3
Steel Tool Makers	1	...	1	1	0
Carpenters	2	1	1	3	1	2	10	0	10
Engineering Works...	1	...	...	1	1	0
Rag Sorter	1	1	0	1
Totals ...	0	22	1	6	14	3	25	71	15	56

N.B.—Under the heading of "Carpenters" are included Cabinet Makers, Upholsterers, Undertakers, Wheelwrights and Coachbuilders.

There is no overcrowding in any Workshop in the District, nearly all provide 500 c.f. air space, and many provide much more.

There are no wholesale bakehouses in the District.

Under the Factories and Workshops Act, 1901, no underground Bakehouse must be used after January 1st, 1904, without written permission of the Sanitary Authorities.

There is only one such underground Bakehouse in the District, which is in Wheathampstead Parish, and this has received the necessary permission of this Council.

There are 2 Factories and 1 Workshop in this District which employ more than 40 persons. They are situated as follows:—

Sandridge, 1 Factory.

Redbourn, 1 Factory.

Redbourn, 1 Workshop.

These all have adequate means of escape from fire.

There are no outworkers of the specified classes in this District.

My thanks are due to the Clerk, Mr. Hieatt, for the kind help which he has always so readily given me, to the Surveyor, Mr. Mence, and to the Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Davey, for his very willing and able assistance, and to you gentlemen for the very courteous way in which you have always treated me.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

HENRY E. MAY,

M.A., M.B., B.C., CANTAB.,

Medical Officer of Health.

Sanitary Inspector's Report For the Year ending December 31st, 1920.

*To the Chairman and Members of the St. Albans
Rural District Council.*

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present my Twelfth Annual Report dealing with the Sanitary work in the Rural District of St. Albans, for the year 1920.

In the routine of work, 1,407 visits have been paid, 69 premises were visited on complaint, 52 for special inquiry, and 44 in connection with coal work during the short strike. Six statutory notices were served. No legal proceedings were taken.

Under the Factory and Workshops Act, 57 inspections were made of trade premises. Rag sorting and picking was commenced by a general dealer in the Wheathampstead District, several females being employed in the work. I called upon the owner to provide sufficient workroom and sanitary accommodation, and this is being provided. Complaints were received of the excessive smoke from a Factory chimney, and timed observations, extending over a period of two months, were made. I reported to the Council that I was of opinion that there was insufficient black smoke to constitute a nuisance under the Public Health Act 1875, but that the smoke was more or less continuous and must be an annoyance to the inhabitants of the District. A letter was sent to the owners of the Factory and no further complaints have been received.

The Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops were visited at the times fixed for limewashing (May and October). These premises were found to be generally in good condition. One cowshed was entirely re-drained, and a request for the removal of a drain from the inside of a dairy is receiving attention. One new cowshed was added to the register in the Wheathampstead District.

Under the Infectious Diseases Notification Act, all premises have been visited and bedding disinfected under the direction of the Medical Officer of Health. All requests for disinfection or disinfectants from the County Tuberculosis Officer after Tubercular cases and applications in connection with non-notifiable diseases were immediately complied with.

The Slaughterhouses on the Register were visited from time to time. Several which were closed during the war are again commencing business, and a complete revision of the register will be necessary in the ensuing year.

Meat inspection was carried out whenever practicable. The carcase of a sheep which was found to be decomposed was condemned and destroyed. The Horse-Slaughtering premises in the District have been frequently visited and only on one occasion during the year was there any cause for complaint. This arose from the overflowing cesspools into the adjoining ditches and occurred during a change of management. The nuisance was abated upon my interviewing the new manager.

The Council rents from the Cottages at Redbourn have been collected each week. With the exception of one tenant who fell one week in arrear; there has been no loss of rent for the year.

The Scavenging of the Villages for which the Council contract, viz :—Redbourn, Colney Heath, London Colney and St. Stephens, has been kept under constant supervision, and complaints were dealt with as they arose. The Council entered into a new contract at Colney Heath and the new contractor is carrying out the work satisfactorily.

The premises under the Petroleum Acts have been inspected. Four new applications to store or sell petrol were received and the premises registered. The necessary fees were paid.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

ROY S. DAVEY,

M.I. MUN. E., M.S.I. Assoc.

Certified Housing and Sanitary Inspector.